GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1974
ANSWERED ON:15.03.2002
PROPOSAL FROM KERALA FOR PROCUREMENT OF RUBBER
A.C. JOSE;VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any representations from rubber growers and Kerala Governmentfor re-introduction of scheme of procurement of natural rubber through State Trading Corporation, continuance of ban on import of natural rubber etc.;

(b) if so, whether State Government has also submitted a proposal regarding diversifications in use of natural rubber as modified bitumen for road constructions;

(c) if so, the details of above mentioned representations / proposals; and

(d) the reaction of the Government on those proposals alongwith justifications thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY)

(a) to (c) :Yes, Sir. Representations / proposals have been received from the Government of Keralaand rubber growers for re-introduction of the scheme of procurement of Natural Rubber through State Trading Corporation, continuance of ban on import of Natural Rubber and diversification in use of Natural Rubber as modified bitumen for road construction.

(e) To ensure a remunerative price to the rubber growers for their produce, the Government of India, under the provisions of the Rubber Act, 1947 has fixed and notified the minimum price for trading in the two most commonly used classes of the Natural Rubber viz. Ribbed Smoked Sheet (RSS) 4 and 5.With the fixation and notification of minimum price which is based on an import parity price, procurement of Natural Rubber through STC is no longer considered necessary.Further, ban on import of Natural Rubber under the advance licences scheme which was imposed w.e.f. 20.2.1999 is still continuing. To increase the usage of indigenous rubber, Govt. of India is already promoting a number of value added rubber items such as Natural Rubber modified bitumen for rubberisation of roads.